

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-14, 16, and 19, have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

- The Examiner rejected claims 15, 17, and 18, under §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 3,170,336 to Bohnhoff (hereinafter Bohnhoff). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because the reference fails to disclose all of the elements as set forth and arranged in the claims.

The Examiner asserts that a circulation passage in the side cap extending in the longitudinal direction of the screw shaft is disclosed in Bohnhoff as elements 22a, 22b. The Examiner is mistaken.

Instead, the circulation passage extending in the longitudinal direction corresponds to an axial passage or return passage 27a in the nut. Therefore, the claimed circulation passage in the side cap is not disclosed. It is a stretch to say that the passage 22a, 22b may have a part which extends in a longitudinal direction, and the Examiner's understanding is not in accord with how a person skilled in the art would understand Bohnhoff; namely, one of ordinary skill in the art would not consider that Bohnhoff's passages 22a, 22b extend in the longitudinal direction.

Additionally, claim 15 sets forth that an attachment hole for the side cap is formed on the circumferential surface of the nut, and the side cap is attached to the attachment hole. This feature is not disclosed in Bohnhoff. Instead, Bohnhoff's so called "side cap" 16 is attached to the axial end (B) of the nut, via holes 19 extending in the axial direction of the nut 10; holes 19 are not on the circumferential surface of the nut 10. See the Examiner's reproduction and annotation of Bohnhoff's Fig. 3 on page 4 of the Office Action.

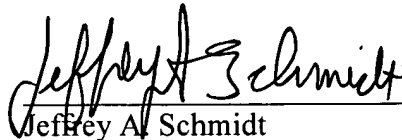
In light of the above, Bohnhoff fails to anticipate claim 15. Likewise, this reference fails to anticipate dependent claims 17 and 18.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Schmidt", is written over a horizontal line.

Jeffrey A. Schmidt
Registration No. 41,574

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON DC SUGHRUE/265550

65565
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: March 9, 2007